

NOMENCLATURA PLANTARUM AMERICANARUM VI. GRAMINEAE

A. Lourteig and Th. Soderstrom

This note should had been published in collaboration with Thomas Soderstrom († 1st. sept. 1987). His untimely death has deprived the World of an outstanding agrostologist; the Bamboos, particularly, would weep for this lose.

As soon as I discovered this problem I explained it to Thomas, and an exchange of letters followed up. We agreed from the beginning on the necessity of a new combination, and we came to the last fine details. However, it is my turn to put our paper out with: Arthrostyloidium farctum (Aublet) Soderstrom et Lourteig n.c.

PLUMIER described in MSS 5: ic. 92 :

Arundo farcta tenuis, altissimique scandens

which was put in binomial nomenclature by Aublet who cited Plumier's protologue and the corresponding illustration. At the same time he quoted P. Browne, Jamaica 139. 1756.

Plumier's description excels in perfection : placing the species in Arundinaceae, starting with the roots in details; then, ... "culmi seu stipitis arundinacei and farcti seu omnino pleni, exiles, politissimi, flexiles seu fractu contumaces...." &c. It is remarkable to learn that the culms are solid. No doubt the leaves so characteristic are also well interpreted as: "... nude e nodis subtiles longissimique dependent funiculi arbores ipsas penitus onstantes ac per quaedam intervalle verticillatim radiatimque emittentes innumera foliola angustissime acutissima, virentia duos aut tres aut quatuor pollices longa ex eadem vaginula squamata quaterna aut quina simul exorientia". The icon corresponds exactly with the description.

No specimen related to Browne's protologue has been found (Doctor Ch. Jarvis' personal communication, to whom we are much obliged).

According with Soderstrom who wrote : "Aublet (1775, vol. 1, p. 52), under "arundo (farcta) refers to the Plumier manuscript and illustration. His Latin description, taken from Browne, certainly refers to Arthrostyloidium capillifolium. This name "farcta" and Latin description are correct for this species of bamboo and represent the earliest name" the nomenclature is as follows :

Arthros

Arthrostyloidium farctum (Aublet) Soderstrom et Lourteig n.c.

Arundo farcta Aublet, Fl. Guiana Franc. 1: 52. 1775 quoad protol. et icon. Plumer., MSS 5: 92 excluding all reference to French Guiana).

Calamagrostis farcta Gmelin, Systema 2 : 172. 1791 quoad synonym. Plum. excl. Guiana.

Arthrostyloidium capillifolium Grisebach, Plantae Wrightianae 2. Mém.

Acad. Sci. Arts n.s. 8: 531. 1862. Type: Cuba, in sylvis densis, frutices vel arbores scandens, Wright 738 a. 1860. Isotype P.

Arundineria capillifolia (Griseb.) Hackel, Osterr. bot. Zeitschr. 53: 69. 1903. Urban, Symb. Antil. 8: 51. 1920; Repert. Spec. Nov. Beihefte 5: 108. 1920.

Type: MSS 5: 92 by Plumier, based on a plant from Saint Thomas Island, found also in Insula Dominicana: La Bande su Sud, Grand Cul de Sac.

This species is known as the "slender climbing reed".

After Soderstrom, who was among this plant in the Dominican Republic early in 1987, this species is known only from the West Indies, not South America.